

Message Text

SECRET

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S/S: LRFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
WHITE HOUSE 0150

S E C R E T STATE 095503

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF

SUBJECT: FRG REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE ON SOUTH AFRICAN
-- NUCLEAR SITUATION

REF: A) BONN 04952, B) STATE 069192

1. FRG EMBASSY OFFICER PROVIDED US WITH TRANSLATION OF
FRG RESPONSE TO MARCH 6, 1978 BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO CHANCELLOR
(REF A) ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR SITUATION. OFFICER SAID
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FRG EMBASSY MOSCOW WAS INSTRUCTED ON APRIL 7 TO DELIVER
RESPONSE IN FORM OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND THAT THE RESPONSE
WAS DELIVERED IN MOSCOW ON APRIL 13 TO THE SOVIET DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER.

BEGIN QUOTE

A. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARES THE CONCERN REGARDING THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION WHICH CONSTITUTES THE BASIS FOR THE MESSAGE BY SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF MARCH 6, 1978. AS A SIGNATORY COUNTRY TO THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS AMONG THOSE NATIONS THAT ADVOCATE THE IDEA OF NONPROLIFERATION WITH SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT.

B. WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO INDICATIONS SUGGESTING A CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AS IT PREVAILED AT THE TIME OF THE GERMAN/SOVIET EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN AUGUST, 1977.

C. FOLLOWING THE SOVIET DEMARCHE AT THAT TIME, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZING THIS QUESTION. IT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THE FIRM ASSURANCE TO THE EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR RESEARCH WAS SERVING ONLY THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE AVAILABLE POSSIBILITIES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE MAKING EFFORTS TO KEEP ITSELF INFORMED AS TO WHETHER THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOES ABIDE BY THIS ASSURANCE.

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D. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARD CONVINCING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT ACCESSION TO THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY AND SUBJECTING THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE TO THE CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY TO ELIMINATE IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION THE BASIS FOR ANY ASSUMPTION OF AN IMMINENT NUCLEAR ARMAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

END QUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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